

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action dated January 23, 2009 has been carefully considered. Claims 1-6 are pending in the application, with claim 1 being the only independent claim. Claims 1-6 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the application, as amended herein and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Objection to the Specification

The subject matter of claim 4 has been added to the specification. In view of this amendment, withdrawal of the objection is believed to be in order.

Claim Objection & Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112

Applicants have amended 2-5 to address the informalities listed in the Office Action.

“Crossover of the output voltage” in claim 4 has been changed to “zero-crossing of the output voltage”. No new matter has been added because a person skilled in the art would understand that “crossover of the output voltage” means “zero-crossing of the output voltage”.

In view of the self-explanatory amendments, withdrawal of the objection to the claims and rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Patentability of the Claims

Independent Claim 1

(a)

Independent claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,671,585 (*Lof*) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,483,127 (*Widmayer*).

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over *Lof* in view of *Widmayer* because modifying *Lof* with *Widmayer* in the way proposed in the Office Action would change the principle of operation of *Lof*.

Lof discloses, among other things, a power system which enhances the commercial value of electric power output of a wind energy facility by making the electric power output of the wind energy facility to be part of a constant power output that is fed into a grid. In such a power system, the wind energy facility operates as a primary energy-generating source, and a traditional power production facility, such as a thermal electric plant 515 (*see* Fig. 5), operates as a backup power-generating source. When the wind energy facility is producing sufficient electric power output, signals are provided to the backup power-generating source to maintain or reduce its electric power output. When the wind energy facility is producing electric power output at a reduced level when lull periods for wind speed exist, the backup power-generating source is instructed to increase its electric energy generation and electric power output. *See* Abstract of *Lof*.

In other words, *Lof* discloses that when a shortage in the electric power output of the wind energy facility is detected, the backup power-generating source is instructed to increase its electric power output so that the total electric power output remains unchanged. When the electric power output of the wind energy facility is at or greater than the desired level, the backup power-generating source is instructed to maintain or decrease its electric power output.

In this manner, the electric power generated by the wind energy facility can be marketed and traded as part of a constant power unit. *See* col. 14, second and third paragraphs of *Lof*.

However, nowhere does *Lof* address the situation where the grid voltage drops substantially. Rather, as discussed earlier, *Lof* addresses the situation where the electric power output of a wind energy facility fluctuates because of wind speed conditions (the solution is to use a traditional power production facility such as a thermal electric plant to compensate such fluctuation). Nowhere does *Lof* disclose altering the operation of the frequency converter of the wind energy facility to compensate such fluctuation, let alone disclosing altering the operation of the frequency converter to compensate grip voltage drop.

Furthermore, modifying *Lof* with *Widmayer* in the way proposed in the Office Action would alter the principle of operation of *Lof* because it renders the traditional power production facility of *Lof* useless and/or redundant¹. As discussed earlier, *Lof* specifically discloses using the traditional power production facility to compensate the power output fluctuation of the wind energy facility.

(b)

Independent claim 1 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable in over *Lof* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,850,424 (*Baudelot*). However, modifying *Lof* with *Baudelot* in the way proposed in the Office Action would alter the principle of operation of *Lof* for reasons discussed above in section (a).

¹ In the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledges "Lof discloses that in the event of a drop in grid voltage, excess current is provided by an auxiliary generator (Fig. 10, xM) instead of altering the operation of the converter itself to provide the extract current" (emphasis added).

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Inventor: Janssen, Wilhelm et al

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C.

103(a) is respectfully requested.

Dependent Claims 2-6

Dependent claims 2-6 are allowable for at least the same reasons that independent claim 1 is allowable, as well as for the additional limitations recited therein.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

General Electric Company

By : /Douglas D. Zhang/
Douglas D. Zhang
Reg. No. 37,985

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GE Global Patent Operation
PO Box 861
2 Corporate Drive, Suite 648
Shelton, CT 06484
203-944-6755